

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region VIII
POLLUTION REPORT

SDMS Document ID



2031542

**ADMINISTRATIVE
RECORD**

Date: Friday, May 06, 2005

From: Craig Myers, OSC

To: Eugene Lee, EPA Headquarters

Subject: Initiation of Action

Libby Asbestos - Stimson Mill

60 Port Blvd, Libby, MT

Latitude: 48.3796

Longitude: -115.54631

POLREP No.:	10	Site #:	08BCRV05
Reporting Period:		D.O. #:	072-08-012
Start Date:	5/2/2005	Response Authority:	CERCLA
Mob Date:	5/2/2005	Response Type:	Time-Critical
Completion Date:		NPL Status:	NPL
CERCLIS ID #:	MT0009083840	Incident Category:	Removal Action
RCRIS ID #:		Contract #	68-W-02-072

Site Description

The Libby Asbestos Site includes an inactive vermiculite mine located in northwestern Montana. Vermiculite mining at Zonolite Mountain (the "mine") was commenced by the Universal Zonolite Company in the 1920s. In 1963, W.R. Grace acquired the property and continued operations until September, 1990.

The processed ore was trucked down the Rainy Creek Road to a Screening Plant, which separated the milled ore into several sizes. Subsequently, the screened ore was moved by conveyor belt across the Kootenai River and shipped either to the Export/Expansion Plant in Libby for further processing or across the country by rail.

This POLREP details only a portion of OU 05 - the "Former Stimson Central Maintenance Building" (CMB). The Stimson property housed vermiculite processing operations until 1950. After that, the Stimson Lumber Mill began producing plywood and dimensioned lumber, continuing to do so until 2002. Buildings around the property contain varying amounts of vermiculite. The property is now owned and operated by the Lincoln County Port Authority, a non-profit portion of the county government that was established to coordinate and oversee economic redevelopment in Libby.

Current Activities**Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection Results**

Within the CMB, three distinct areas have been identified that have Vermiculite Containing Insulation (VCI) or other asbestos containing building materials that are causing a human health threat or threatening a release to the environment. These areas are the Midline Wall (believed to

have once been an exterior wall), the former Mobile Shop, and the former Mobile Shop roof. VCI has been observed leaking from all sections of the Midline Wall, and all walls of the Former Mobile Shop. The Former Mobile Shop roof was constructed of a tongue and groove decking material and covered with a light concrete type material. EPA believes that vermiculite was mixed in with this concrete as aggregate. The concrete was sampled and tested out at less than 1% Libby Amphibole. However, the concrete material is damaged to the point that it cannot be repaired. Future removal or repair, due to the structure's age rather than contamination, will threaten the remedy planned for the interior of the mobile shop.

Portions of the lower roof areas are of similar construction as the former Mobile Shop roof, but are undamaged. Future removal or repair will not pose a threat to the remedy inside the building.

Current Response Actions

Currently, EPA is removing VCI from former exterior walls of the Central Maintenance Building. We are currently only working on the Midline Wall in the former Engineering and Warehouse (E & W) spaces. The decision to remove the insulation was made because portions of the building are presently occupied and VCI is leaking from the walls into both occupied spaces in the building as well as onto the ground outside. Additional spaces in the building are going to be leased out soon, and may be utilizing the overhead gantry cranes. EPA believes will cause more VCI to leak from the walls. EPA is also concerned that the industrial nature of the property will lead to higher than normal breaches of the wall cavities by utility workers, causing small releases each time. Due to the building's structure, architecture, and proposed future use, there is no effective way to contain the VCI in the walls.

Planned Removal Actions

Similar actions will take place in the Former Mobile Shop area, and the Former Mobile Shop roof will be removed and replaced with a suitable roofing material. Minor structural repairs may be necessary once removal of the concrete material is complete. These repairs will be done by the Lincoln County Port Authority.

Key Issues

Coordination of building repairs with removal activities to ensure timely completion.

Estimated Costs *

	Budgeted	Total To Date	Remaining	% Remaining
Extramural Costs				
ERRS - Cleanup Contractor	\$700,000.00	\$188,248.00	\$511,752.00	73.11%
IAGs	\$35,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$29,000.00	82.86%
Intramural Costs				
Total Site Costs	\$735,000.00	\$194,248.00	\$540,752.00	73.57%

* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final

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payments made to any contractor(s). Other financial data which the OSC must rely upon may not be entirely up-to-date. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

www.epaosc.org/LibbyStimson